

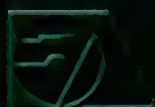
## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



# WIC Research at ERS

Reserve  
aTX537  
.W53  
2006



**Food Assistance & Nutrition  
Research Program**

*Economic Research for a Healthy,  
Well-Nourished America*

ERS conducts studies and evaluations of the Nation's domestic food and nutrition assistance programs, including the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). ERS research is designed to meet the critical information needs of Congress, program managers, policy officials, the research community, and the public at large.

## **Recent WIC-related Research Reports from ERS**

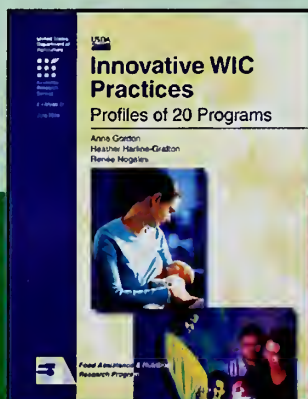
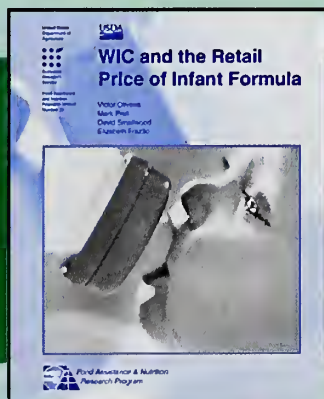
### ***Assessing the Nutrient Intakes of Vulnerable Subgroups (CCR-11)***

The nutrient adequacy of population groups at risk of inadequate nutrient intake, excessive intake, or dietary imbalances was analyzed, using the Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals (1994-96 and 1998). The population subgroups include, among others, low-income individuals, and individuals targeted by and participating in food and nutrition assistance programs such as WIC.

### ***Effects of Food Assistance and Nutrition Programs on Nutrition and Health: Volume 3, Literature Review (FANRR-19-3)***

A comprehensive review and synthesis of published research on the impact of USDA's domestic food and nutrition assistance programs, including WIC, this report looks at participants' nutrition and health outcomes.

See also: *Volume 1, Research Design (FANRR-19-1)*; *Volume 2, Data Sources (FANRR-19-2)*; and *Volume 4, Executive Summary (FANRR-19-4)*.





### ***Nutrition and Health Characteristics of Low-Income Populations: Volume II, WIC Participants and Nonparticipants (E-FAN-04014-2)***

Data from the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES-III), conducted in 1988-94, were used to compare the nutrition and health characteristics of WIC participants and nonparticipants.

### ***Children's Consumption of WIC-Approved Foods (FANRR-44)***

Consumption patterns of WIC children were compared with those of three other groups: eligible nonparticipating children living in non-WIC households, eligible nonparticipating children living in WIC households, and children living in households whose income is too high to be eligible for WIC. The study provides strong evidence that participation in the WIC program increases consumption of at least some types of WIC-approved foods.

### ***Interstate Variation in WIC Food Package Costs: The Role of Food Prices, Caseload Composition, and Cost-Containment Practices (FANRR-41)***

Food prices within States affect average monthly costs of State food benefits provided by WIC more than variations in WIC caseload composition do. Cost-containment practices by State WIC agencies also contribute to interstate variation in food package costs.

### ***Innovative WIC Practices: Profiles of 20 Programs (E-FAN-04-007)***

Innovative practices were identified at 20 State or local WIC agencies, focusing on practices in three main areas: breastfeeding support, nutrition education, and service delivery.

### ***WIC and the Retail Price of Infant Formula (FANRR-39-1)***

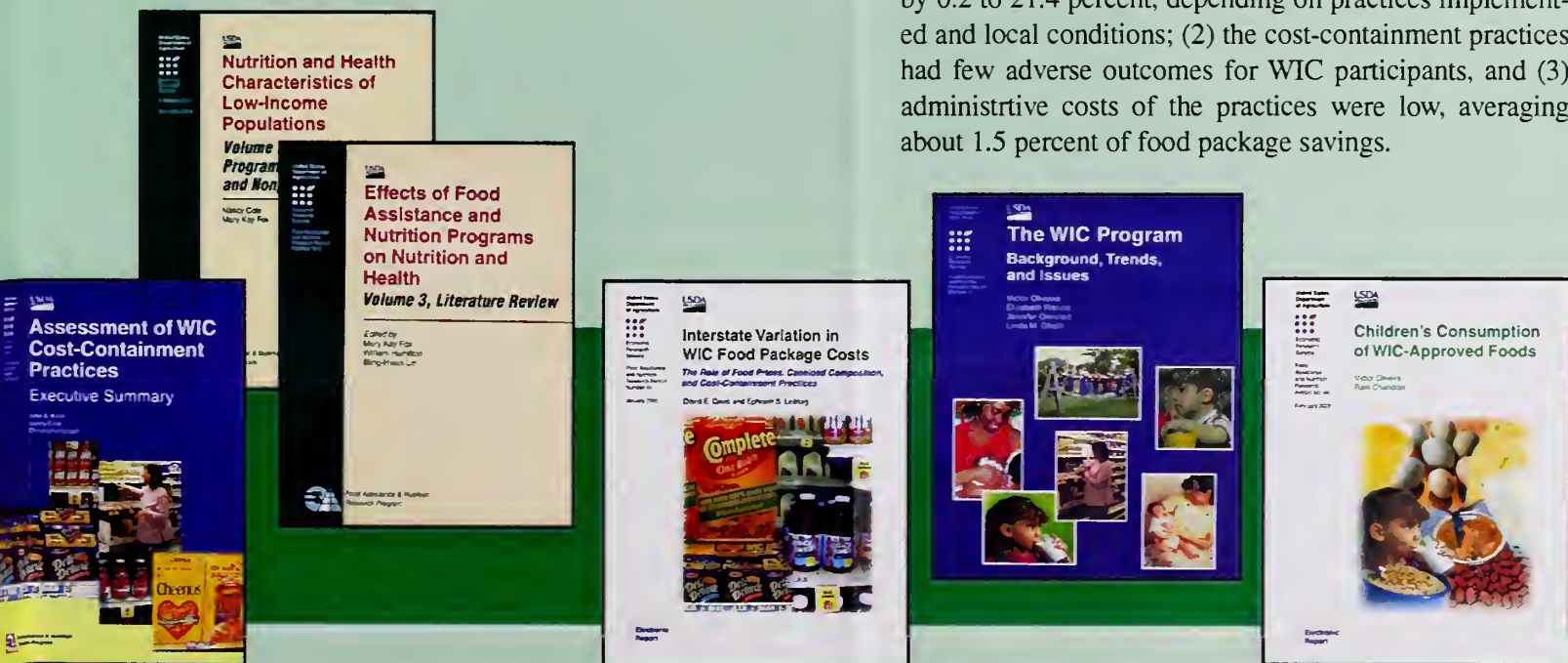
Concerns have been raised that WIC and its infant formula rebate program may significantly affect the infant formula prices faced by non-WIC consumers. This report presents findings from the most comprehensive national study of infant formula prices at the retail level.

### ***The WIC Program: Background, Trends, and Issues (FANRR-27)***

Comprehensive background information on the WIC program is presented in this report—how it works, its history, program trends, and the characteristics of the population it serves.

### ***Assessment of WIC Cost-Containment Practices Executive Summary (FANRR-31)***

Based on a review of cost-containment practices in six States, the study draws three major conclusions: (1) cost-containment practices reduced average food package costs by 0.2 to 21.4 percent, depending on practices implemented and local conditions; (2) the cost-containment practices had few adverse outcomes for WIC participants, and (3) administrative costs of the practices were low, averaging about 1.5 percent of food package savings.



### **Parenting Practices and Obesity in Low-Income African-American Preschoolers (CCR-3)**

A questionnaire was developed and administered to identify feeding practices among low-income African-American mothers and eating behaviors in their preschool children that are associated with childhood obesity.

### **Linking WIC Program Data to Medicaid and Vital Records Data: Phase II Report, Data Development Initiatives for Research on Food Assistance and Nutrition Programs—Final Report (E-FAN-04-005-2)**

An implementation strategy is provided for linking State WIC data with Medicaid and vital records data for research purposes.

### **Dietary Risk Assessment in the WIC Program**

Conducted by the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, the study concluded that nearly all low-income women in the childbearing years and children ages 2 to 5 years are at dietary risk, are vulnerable to nutrition deficiencies, and may benefit from WIC's services. ERS provided funding for this study.

## **WIC-Related Research Published Elsewhere**

"Randomized, controlled trial of a prenatal and postnatal lactation consultant intervention on duration and intensity of breastfeeding up to 12 months," K.A. Bonuck, M. Trombley, K. Freeman, D. McKee. *Pediatrics*. 2005 Dec; 116(6):1413-26.

"The Effect of Breast-Feeding With and Without Concurrent Formula Feeding on the Risk of Obesity at 4 Years of Age," D.L. Bogen, B.H. Hanusa, and R.C. Whitaker. *Obesity Research*, Vol. 12, No. 9, September 2004.

"Predicting Preschooler Obesity at Birth: the Role of Maternal Obesity in Early Pregnancy," R. Whitaker. *Pediatrics*, Vol. 114, No. 1, July 2004.

**U.S.D.A., NAL**

**NOV 30 2006**

**CATALOGING PREP**

## **Ongoing WIC-Related Research Projects at ERS**

- *Factors Associated with Iron Status Among WIC Infants in Rural West Virginia*
- *Research on Breastfed Infants' Growth*
- *Testing WIC Health Outcomes: Ethical and Methodological Limits and Possibilities*
- *An Assessment of the Impact of Medicaid Managed Care on WIC Program Coordination with Primary Care Services*
- *Evaluating Changes in WIC Participant Food Purchasing as a Result of WIC Nutrition Education*
- *Early Childhood Longitudinal Study—Birth Cohort*

#### **Cover photo/source credits:**

Right: Photos by David C. Arendt

Source: La Lache League International

The Economic Research Service (ERS) is the main source of economic information and research from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The mission of ERS is to inform and enhance public and private decisionmaking on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural development.

For more information on ERS publications and ongoing research, visit our website at [www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov). Sign up to receive e-mail updates on new publications, conferences, and funding opportunities. Go to [www.ers.usda.gov/updates](http://www.ers.usda.gov/updates) and then select "Food & Nutrition Assistance Programs" as a topic of interest.

Contact Betsy Frazao at (202) 694-5455  
or e-mail [efrazao@ers.usda.gov](mailto:efrazao@ers.usda.gov).



United States Department of Agriculture  
Economic Research Service

**January 2006**